

ABSTRACT

[0019] A method to compile images and data created on different software platforms into a platform-independent image begins when a PCB assembler utilizes a VRML interface to make a request to show an image of a PCB or any part of a PCB. The request is sent to a WWW server, which in turn, contacts a database interface, such as CGI. The requested image data is stored on at least one external database and is likely comprised of many individual elements created on many different software platforms, such as Gerber or CAD. The database interface retrieves the requested image data from the external databases and funnels it to the PCB assembler via the WWW server. Finally, the VRML interface software compiles all of the multi-platform data and generates a new, software- and processor-independent image.